(d) the time by when the Committee is likely to submit its report to Government; and

(e) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Committee was constituted on 24.10.91 and it consists of a Chairman, a Vice Chairman and a Member, who are experts in the field of transport economics and railway working.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) The Committee is expected to submit its report by end of December, 1993.

US solution to Kashmir Issue

*84. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item which appeared in the Times of India dated 11th October, 1993 to the effect that Washington Accord on Palestine would embolden the US to arm twist India and Pakistan into accepting an American solution to the Kashmir issue;

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government and steps proposed to be taken by Government in this regard;

(c) whether Government will resume bilateral talks with Pakistan's new regime to settle the Kashmir issue to avoid the dictates of the US; and

(d) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) and (b) Government have seen media reports to this effect. Government are committed to resolving all differences with Pakistan bilaterally and peacefully in accordance with the Simla Agreement. There is no scope for any outside or third party involvement of any sort;

(c) and (d) Pursuant to a message from Prime Minister to the Prime Minister of Pakistan and the latter's response, a Joint Staetment issued by both the Governments on 24 November, 1993 reaffirms that in accordance with the Simla Agreement. Foreign Secretary-level talks would be held between the two countries at Islamabad from 1—3 January, 1994, during which comprehensive discussions on bilateral issues including J & K would take place.

Discussions on Bi-lateral issues with China

*85. SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA:

SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister visited Beijing recently;

(b) if so, what are the areas of talks held with the Chinese Government for improving bilateral relations between the two countries; and

(c) what are the issues on which an agreement has been arrived at between the two countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) to (c) The Prime Minister, Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao, visited China from September 6-9-1993.

The Prime Minister discussed a range of bilateral issues including high level visits, exchanges and cooperation in various fields including trade, economic, scientific, educational and cultural fields, and the boundary question. The discussions were extensive and covered all areas which are of interest and concern to us.

The visit resulted in the signing of four agreements, namely, an agreemen